

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01970 250558Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9031

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XCINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PAK CHUN-KYO ON ANTI-SLANDER LAW

REF: (A) SEOUL 1850; (B) SEOUL 1876; (C) SEOUL 1930

1. DRP POLICY CHAIRMAN PAK CHUN-KYU, YUNCHONGHOE ASSEMBLYMAN AND LAW EXPERT HAN TQI-YON AND DRP SPOKESMAN YI HAE-WON MET MARCH 25 WITH KOREAN REPS FIVE WESTERN NEWS SERVICES (AP, UPI, REUTERS, AFP, AND NYT). PAK ASKED NEWSMEN TO LUNCH TO BRIEF THEM ON NEW ANTI-SLANDER AMENDMENT. NEWSMAN PRESENT AT MEETING REPORTED TO USIS OFFICER THAT PAK AND ASSOCIATES GAVE ASSURANCES LAW AIMED AT "IRRESPONDIBLE FLUNKY OPPOSITION POLITICIANS" AND WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST FOREIGNERS, KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN MEDIA, KOREAN MEDIA, OR KOREAN EMPLOYEES FOREIGN EMBASSIES. PAK REPORTEDLY APOLOGIZED FOR HIS PART IN DRAFTING AMENDMENT AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT WORDING BROAD ENOUGH TO POSSIBLY INVOLVE KOREAN REPS FOREIGN MEDIA. PAK STATED HE WOULD WORK TO SOFTEN ENFORCEMENT DURING JUSTICE MINISTRY FORMULATION OF IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01970 250558Z

2. NEWSMEN REPORTEDLY WERE UNCONVINCED THAT AMENDMENT WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST THEM OR TO RESTRICT THEIR COVERAGE OPPOSITION POLITICAL FIGURES. HAN ADMITTED THAT NEWSMEN WHO FILED STORIES TO THE U.S.

QUOTING POLITICIANS COULD BE REQUIRED TO TESTIFY
GIVING EVIDENCE OF SLANDER AGAINST ROK. MEDIA REPS
POINTED OUT TO PAK THAT DRP DOES NOT CONTROL
IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW AND ASKED FOR WRITTEN GUARANTEE
FROM ADMINISTRATION THAT LAW WILL NOT BE USED
AGAINST THEM. PAK SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY
OF WRITTEN ASYERANCE.

3. DURING ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE FOREIGN MEDIA REPS THAT
AMENDMENT WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST THEM PAK
REPORTEDLY STATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT "TWO MONTHS
FROM NOW YOU WILL FORGET ABOUT THE LAW." USIS
SOURCE WOULD NOT SPECULATE IF THIS INDLKATED THAT
LAW COULD NOT BE ENFORCED OR WOULD BE ECLIPSED BY
MORE SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT.

4. SOURCE
REPORTS THAT FIVE NEWSMEN WILL REPORT
ON MEETING TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB WHICH
WILL APPOINT DELEGATION TO ASK MCUI FOR WRITTEN
CLARIFICATION OF LAW.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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